GeoSuffolk Times

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Welcome to issue number 18 of our GeoSuffolk Times - for those who value Suffolk's geodiversity.
Caroline Markham 13.10.13 www.geosuffolk.co.uk

Dinosaur Footprints in Ipswich Museum

It is ten years since Ipswich Museum's much-used *Rocks and Fossils Gallery* (displaying many hundreds of specimens) was dismantled to make way for an exhibition on slavery. Two slabs of limestone showing *Iguanodon* footprints from Swanage, built into the gallery wall, were boarded up. Dinosaurs and Egyptians are probably the two favourites of children visiting museums. Ipswich Museum has recently re-displayed its Egyptian collections but the dinosaur footprints are still hidden from the children of Ipswich. Their position is ideally situated to fit in with proposed plans for the future of the Museum.
Bob Markham (RM)

Glaciotectonics

The latest (September 2013) issue of the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* (PGA) is a special issue on Glaciotectonics and includes three articles on north Norfolk; also of interest in other articles are a list of papers by George Slater (page 737) and (page 789) a glossary.
The expression 'glacial tectonics' (referring to deformation of sands and clays by glacier movement) was used for the first time by George Slater in 1926, after studying excavations in Dales Road and Hadleigh Road in Ipswich. Born in Yorkshire, he became a school teacher in East Anglia, taught geology at Ipswich Evening Technical School in 1907, and was a demonstrator and Lecturer at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. RM

The railway cutting at Hadleigh Road - widened in May 1933.

Cobbold's Point, Felixstowe

New sea defences of larvikite blocks around Cobbold's Point are easily viewed from the pathway. The large block specifically featured at the south end would gain from having a brief explanatory plaque as at Corton – see GeoSuffolk Times no.14. At the north end, and north of Jacob's ladder, the cliff still shows London Clay (Harwich Formation) with at least one volcanic ash band and there is a little Red Crag above it. Earlier defences (c.2000-1) used rock from 'a north Midlands quarry'. RM

Elizabeth Cobbold

Whilst on Heritage Weekend duty at seldom-open St Clement's Church in Ipswich we noticed several memorials to the local Cobbold family. These included one to Elizabeth Cobbold who died in 1824. The fossil crag bivalve *Nucula cobboldiae* was named after her by James Sowerby in 1817 – see GeoSuffolk Times no.8. RM

The Moon

The Orwell Astronomical Society's Public Open Weekend at Nacton (Orwell Park Observatory) is on November 22nd and 23rd. There will be observations of the Moon which makes a fine geological object through the telescopes. For more information see - http://www.oasi.org.uk/Open_Days/Open_Days.shtml

Coprolite Street

In a recent issue of *Down to Earth* magazine Coprolite Street in Ipswich was associated with the Cambridge coprolite industry. It is, of course, named after the Red Crag coprolite industry of the Ipswich area – see GeoSuffolk Times no.11. RM

Geology at Clare

A letter from T H Wells, Clerk to Clare Parish Council, in the East Anglian Daily Times 09.09.60 mentioned "Evidence of the existence of a Geologists' Association formed in Clare in June 1868. It appears that a museum was then formed consisting chiefly of geological specimens." Does anyone have any further information? RM

SUFFOLK'S GEO-COAST
Visit the GeoSuffolk stand at the Geologists' Association Festival of Geology on November 2nd at University College London. See http://geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival.html

News: Geodiversity Providers and Owners

South Asian Geology

Visit GeoSuffolk at Ipswich Museum's half-term *Global Gallivant*. On October 30th (10-12, 2-4) we shall be showing some of the museum's collection of Sewalik Hills mammalian fossils (find out how they got to Ipswich) and also featuring the geology of Agra's Taj Mahal. RM

Looking for a Christmas Present?

Follow in the footsteps of Professor Richard West. *From Brandon to Bungay* is an exploration of the landscape history and geology of the Little Ouse/Waveney valleys. Published, paperback 2009, by the Suffolk Naturalists' Society with support from GeoSuffolk, it has 38 high quality full colour plates and guidance to many localities. It may be obtained from the Suffolk Naturalists' Society, c/o Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QH, for £12 including p&p. RM

Even more ….under Knettishall Heath

(See GeoSuffolk Times no.17)
Further investigation at this Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve (on 25.07.13) showed the 'brecciated chalk' to also consist of calcareous silty material and contain quartz pebbles, showing it also (with the sand) contains material soliflucted downslope before freeze-thaw action created the stripes. RM

Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

The AONB has published its 2013-18 Management Plan, which is available to download: http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/about-us/aonb-management-plan/
The geodiversity of the AONB, which has been skilfully integrated throughout the document, is exemplified by this statement in the *Overview* section "The unique character of the SCH AONB is a product of its underlying geology, shaped by the effects of the sea and the interaction of people with the landscape." CM

CGS Condition Monitoring

In September GeoSuffolk undertook condition monitoring of two coastal CGS – Harkstead Cliff and Shore and Thorpe Ness. Harkstead has been designated for its exposures of Harwich Formation London Clay and Pleistocene deposits (see GeoSuffolk Times no. 14) and Thorpe Ness is an important coastal feature (see GeoSuffolk Times no.16). Both were found to be in GOOD condition.
Footnote: This completes GeoSuffolk's '30-site project' – actually 31 Local Sites (RIGS and Public CGS) have been designated, condition monitored and entered into the SCC EnCheck database. CM

Have you read?

Concluding our review series from *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology*….
The Norwich Crag geology of the country around Westleton by Howard Mottram.
This article provides a comprehensive review of Norwich Crag exposures in this part of Suffolk - 14 in all plus borehole/excavation data from Sizewell – revealing some interesting details and providing valuable insights into the palaeo-environment of the Norwich Crag.
The lower beds, mostly sands indicate a shallowing sea with a variety of primary structures – cross bedding, ripples, mud drapes and worm tubes. The higher deposits indicate the return of the sea across this part of Suffolk, with horizontally bedded sands cross cut by wide deep troughs with pebble beds - possibly marine gravels washed into channels between barrier islands. Smaller troughs filled with sands and gravel are thought to represent near-shore rip channels.
9 of the sites in this article have public access – so this deposit is easy to visit. A gentle stroll across Westleton Heath will reveal several exposures in disused pits, then a walk along the beach beneath the National Trust property at Dunwich Heath shows a large channel full of cobbles in the cliff. Lastly, a view of the sandy exposure from the RSPB café at the Minsmere Nature Reserve is available with your well-earned cup of tea.
A Celebration of Suffolk Geology, Ed. Dr Roger Dixon is available from Ipswich Museum. CM

Norwich Crag cobbles used for aesthetic (and moral?) effect at Peasenhall Church Flower Festival.

GeoAnglia

- *Coin News*, April 2013, illustrates a 'Marl-pit' 3d token issued by D Collyer at Wroxham in Norfolk in 1797, to pay workmen. One side depicts a spade, pickaxe and wheelbarrow.
- For information on Essex Copperas Gatherers' tokens see the article by William George in *Tertiary Research* 1 (1976).
- Norwich *Evening News* 18.07.13 reported on the Norwich-based company EV, which designs and manufactures cameras to check conditions in oil and gas wells. Current work includes using cameras in the USA shale gas industry to identify where water enters wells. RM